

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Suspension of	)	
	)	
the Educator Certificate of	)	CONSENT ORDER OF
	)	
Mike Santiago	)	SUSPENSION
	)	
Certificate # 154150	)	

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 7, 2004. On August 21, 2003, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Mr. Mike Santiago a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate (certificate) number 154150 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Santiago received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. On September 8, 2003, Mr. Santiago requested a hearing, which was scheduled for September 15, 2004, before John J. Fantry, Jr., Esquire, a hearing officer appointed by the State Board. Mr. Santiago subsequently agreed through his attorney, Dona L. Guffey, Esquire, to resolve the case without a hearing upon the following terms: (1) Mr. Santiago agreed to the voluntary suspension of his certificate. The suspension period would be for three years commencing retroactively on August 1, 2003, and ending July 31, 2006; (2) This suspension would be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts on the grounds of unprofessional conduct. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary suspension of Mr. Santiago's certificate upon the terms set forth above.

Mr. Santiago holds a valid South Carolina certificate with over fourteen years of teaching experience. Mr. Santiago held a 2003-2004 contract with York County School District (District) and was the band director at Clover High School.

Mike Santiago No.# 154150
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_____ Initial Here
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_____ Date
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Mr. Santiago resigned from the District on July 24, 2003, surrounding allegations that Mr. Santiago violated York County School Board policies by consuming an alcoholic beverage in the presence of students and parents while on a band trip. An allegation was made that he had engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a student. Mr. Santiago denies this allegation. Mr. Santiago recognizes however that he should have exercised better judgment on the band trip.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes “(4) Unprofessional conduct.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented supports its decision to accept the retroactive suspension of Mr. Santiago’s certificate # 154150, from August 1, 2003, through July 31, 2006, upon the conditions set forth above. The Office of Teacher Certification will automatically reinstate Mr. Santiago’s certificate at the end of the suspension period.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones

Dr. Mary E. Jones

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

September 7, 2004

I, Mike Santiago, SC Teaching Certificate 154150, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, September 7, 2004.

/S/ Mike Santiago  
Mike Santiago

9/3/04  
Date